

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A SUBJECT Ministry for National Forces

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REPORT NO.

1. In late September 1952, the following information was obtained on the organizational status of the army department of the headquarters of the Ministry for National Forces which moved to a group of buildings on Schneller Strasse in early September:

1st Section. Operations (commitment of the troops). Chief: Chefinspekteur **Kurt Wagner** (fmu).

2d Section. Organization (T/Os).

3d Section. Recruiting. The section has registration offices in the 1st Bezirk of West Germany. Chief: VP Oberrat Schulz (fmu).

4th Section. Transportation. Chief: VP Oberrat Teuber (fmu).

5th Section. Signal communications. Chief: VP Inspekteur **Georg Reimann**.

6th Section. Research. Chief: Chefinspekteur Linke (fmu). The office is located at 16 Neue Schoenholzer Strasse, Berlin-Pankow, and employs about 50 civilians.

7th Section. Geding.

8th Section. Classified material.

9th Section. Topography.

10th Section. Finances and supply. Chief Chefinspekteur **Walter Bechler**.

11th Section. Police and Komendatura.

12th Section. Planning.

The army department is unofficially called headquarters. It is probably to be a superior headquarters of all the branches of the armed forces. Information as to how the army, navy and air forces are to be coordinated is not yet available. Conferences at which the structure, strength and armament of the national army are discussed are continually held between Soviet offices from Berlin-Karlshorst and the Central Committee of the SED.

2. In late September, a total of 1,200 officers, NCOs, EM and civilian employees were assigned to the Ministry for National Forces. Personnel expenses for the month of October 1952 have been estimated at 1.3 million eastmarks. Officers attached to the ministry have immediately to order their uniforms from the Leckelburg and Lescopack firm at 73 Koeniglichstrasse, Berlin SC 16, and the VEB Fortschritt on Schenhauser Allee, Berlin-Niederschoenhausen.

3. In late September, collections of money for the entire Volkspolizei including the WOVP, the main administration for political affairs headed by Generalinspekteur **Hoellin**, Rudolf, the Ministry of the Interior/A, the Ministry for State Security and the Bureau for Economic Affairs are being handled by the Main Administration for Finances of the Ministry of the Interior, headed by **Walter Allenstein**. All the agencies mentioned had to settle their accounts by 30 September 1952 and to transfer their remaining assets to the bank account of the financial operations department. The

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handling of funds of the Ministry for State Security by the Ministry of the Interior which, formerly, were directly allotted, to the Ministry for State Security does not imply that it is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior.

4. The main administration for political affairs, whose deputy chief is Inspekteur Boehme (fmu), was ordered to move from Berlin-Adlershof to house No 59/61 on Behren Strasse, Berlin-Mitte. This building is being reconditioned.
5. The headquarters of all the Volkspolizei cadre units is scheduled to move from Berlin-Adlershof to Schneller Strasse or Behrenstrasse. The chief of this headquarters, Ewald Munschke, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and a member of the SED Central Committee, will allegedly be promoted to the rank of Generalinspekteur in the near future.
6. Political considerations in consequence of the visit to Bonn of the delegates of the Volkskammer and the envisaged negotiations on free elections in all Germany make it appear improbable that the existence of the Ministry for National Forces will be publicized in the near future. The Ministry of the Interior is the only office mentioned in internal and official transactions.

1. [redacted] Comment. The existence of a Ministry for National Forces is established and the origin and the professional background of the section chiefs mentioned reveal the predominantly military character of the headquarters. Chefinspekteur Wagner is believed to be identical with the former chief of the VPD in Brandenburg-Wohenstuecken, Kurt Wagner. Oberrat Teuber (fmu) previously was chief of the 4th Section (transcription) of the main department headquarters of the HVA. Inspekteur Reimann previously was chief of the 5th Section (signal communications) of the main department headquarters of the HVA. Chefinspekteur Linko (fmu) was previously reported by the same source as having the same assignment. Chefinspekteur Walter Bechler formerly was Minister of the Interior in Land Brandenburg and, during the last years, chief of the central headquarters of the HVA. The data furnished are not believed to represent the definite organizational setup of the Ministry of National Forces. 25X1A
2. [redacted] Comment. According to information furnished by the same source, only 150 persons were assigned to the ministry in early August 1952. [redacted] 25X1A
3. [redacted] Comment. The purpose of these movements is not yet clear. They may be connected with further organizational changes. 25X1A

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